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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington D.C. 20520

July 12, 1978

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Dear Mr. Moorhead:

Thank you for your letter of June 1 concerning Mr. Pablo Marcelo Cordoba of Argentina who reportedly was abducted in Buenos Aires on June 8, 1977.

Our Embassy in Buenos Aires has expressed our concern about this case to the Government of Argentina and has requested the Argentine Foreign Office Working Group on Human Rights to provide information on Mr. Cordoba. Unfortunately, the Working Group has informed us that the Government of Argentina has no record of his detention nor any information regarding his whereabouts. The Embassy will, however, continue to monitor the case and we will contact your office immediately should we receive any information concerning Mr. Cordoba.

We have been deeply concerned about the large number of disappearances and other human rights abuses in Argentina, and repeatedly have expressed these concerns to the Government at the highest levels.

We have taken a number of actions to convey to the Argentines how strongly committed we are to human rights--grant military training for Argentina has been withdrawn, arms sales have been held back, and we have linked our vote in the International Financial Institutions to the Argentine record on human rights. We have clearly indicated that an improvement in human rights practices is essential to a continuation of good bilateral relations. Approval of any new assistance programs will

The Honorable
William S. Moorhead,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 11/20/82

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE

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depend on substantial human rights improvements. Indeed, the Congress has legislated, as part of the Foreign Assistance Act, that beginning October 1 there will be no new arms transfers to Argentina without major human rights improvements.

You may wish to suggest to Mr. and Mrs. Cordoba that they also send information about their son to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States, 1725 I Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

Sincerely,

EK log

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Drafted by: HA/HR:CEmig:djr
6/21/78:x21384

Clearances: HA/HR:RCohen
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